the centre of the State where patients can easily come from all the four corners, it should have all possible facilities. The popularity and the usefulness of that institution is clearly seen from the remarks recorded in the Visitors' Book by the retired Maharaja. His Highness says:—"there were 80 patients in the Hospital. For want of room some of them had to be kept in the verandah—Dr. Rao has been able to purchase several things useful for the Hospital from a fund to which several people have voluntarily contributed. (2—6—26.)"

The present condition of the buildings is far from satisfactory. To the benefit of those members who have not visited that Hospital, I shall say a few words about the present buildings. The Operation Room (a separate block) is situated between the two main parallel blocks, and connected with them by covered pathways, thus converting the Operation Room into a thoroughfare for all persons—patients, visitors, medical men, Hospital menials, etc., who want to go from one block to the other. Sir, in this rapidly advancing state of Surgical era, it is a disgrace to the State to have such an unscientific Operation Theatre. Further, the two main blocks stand in great need of very urgent repairs and substantial structural alterations. I visited the Hospital recently; it has more the appearance of a choultry than a hospital. The Government have allotted Rs. 500 0 for repairs alone—this, taken with the remarks of His Highness in the Visitors' Book, viz., Dr. Rao has been able to purchase several things useful for the Hospital from a fund to which several people have voluntarily contributed—clearly shows culpable neglect on the part of the Government for years together. Our General Hospital swallows a considerable sum of money year after year for repairs, demolitions, very many structural alterations, and new constructions, etc. The only section of the Trichur Hospital that is in good order is the mortuary. With this exception I have no hesitation to condemn the present state of the buildings. May I ask the Government why this step-motherly treatment to the Trichur Civil Hospital, Sir?

(e) **The Excise Department.**—I would emphasise the great disability that the poor toddy tappers—specially in the case of the palmyra tappers—of the State are labouring under. The imposition of a license tax for sweet toddy tapping—not done in the Madras Presidency—acts as a set-back on the cottage industry of jaggery making. To give an impetus to it and to show some consideration to the poor tappers, the present licensing system may be done away with In answer to a question of mine, the Government then promised to view the

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matter favourably, but, Sir, nothing has been done till now. I would again bring this matter before the Government for favourable consideration.

(f) Engineering—Irrigation in Chittur—Boring operations in Nemmara.—I am very glad to place before the Council the good work done by the Chief Engineer in working out the Mulattara Irrigation System at Chittur, and the Nemmara Drinking Water Scheme. I hope the Chief Engineer will only redouble his efforts in future so that the maximum benefit may be realised out of these systems.

With these few remarks, I beg to close my say.

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—Sir, before I make a few observations on the preliminary budget, I desire to voice the feelings of profound thankfulness to God Almighty, entertained by all classes of people in the State, in having restored our beloved Maharaja to vigorous health, thus enabling him to exercise greater supervision in the details of administration. I would also pay my sincere and disinterested tribute to the very efficient itinerary work of our Diwan. He has toured all over the country, and visited most of our public institutions, and his notes of inspection are very suggestive and thorough. I believe that his long experience as a Judicial Officer has impressed upon him the necessity of getting at first-hand information, and avoiding hearsay. I desire also to observe that the Heads of the various Departments have been exhibiting a keen desire to profit by the discussions in this House, to rise to the occasion, and meet the legitimate demands of non-official members for information regarding the work of the departments. The enthusiastic interest evinced by members of the Ruling Family, and by visitors here, both from within the State and outside it, is a source of great encouragement, and their appreciation of the good work done by this Council last year is also a matter of gratification and just pride.

These remarks are but a prelude to the demand that I now want to make, for associating the people in a greater measure in the administration of the State, and for the creation of an Executive Council. (*Hear, hear.*) Many of you might be aware of the memorandum submitted a few years ago, by the Cochin Mahajana Sabha, to the Government, requesting for the grant of responsible self-government to the people. It extracts Bishop Whitehead's opinion that the establishment of a responsible government may be tried, preferably, with advantage in any educated Indian State. So far as education is concerned,

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